

Approved 12/14/2004.

5.1

NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, November 9, 2004

MINUTES

Call to Order. Chairperson David S. Gordon called the Regular Meeting of the Newport School Committee to order at 7:02 p.m. at the Thompson Middle School Beatrice Berman Bazarsky Performing Arts Center and Cafeteria. Attendance was as follows: School Committee Members: Vice Chairperson Robert J. Leary, Mary Jane Barry, Ph.D., David R. Carlin, Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr., Jo Eva Gaines, and Thomas S. Phelan; School Committee Members-Elect: Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker and Dr. O. William Hilton, Jr.; School Department: Superintendent of Schools Mary C. Canole, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent of Schools Robert B. Power, Ed.D., Director of Special Education Linda Martin, Director of Teaching, Learning, and Professional Development Judith M. Droitcour (absent), Business Manager Bruce Alexander, Director of Property Services Paul Fagan, Coordinator of Human Resources and Information Services Fran Eames, School Building Principals, Administrators, and School Committee Counsel Neil P. Galvin (arrived at 7:40 p.m.).

ROLL CALL.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

1.0 MOMENT OF SILENCE. There was no Moment of Silence.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT. Public Comment was received from Parents Deborah Circosta and Ann Galvin (who was not present) requesting that the Thompson Middle School Eighth Grade Clusters be placed on the Committee's December Meeting Agenda. Public Input was received from Taxpayer Peter Rice relative to the School Committee Meeting of October 26, 2004: New York Yacht Club: Underwood School Proposal, which he urged the Committee to reconsider its support. Public Comment was received from Taxpayer Patrick Kelley relative to protocol for communication to parents and taxpayers from school administration. He indicated the need to officially communicate with parents about issues such as the lack of seating, books.

3.0 STUDENT ACTIVITIES.

3.1 Student Council Update. Student Council President, Keelan Maguire, provided an update on the Student Council activities planned for this current academic year to date: parent/teacher conferences, fall and winter sports, food drive, and student mentor Big Brother/Big Sister Program.

4.0 RESOLUTIONS AND CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT.

4.1 Proclamation: American Education Week. Introduced by School Committee Chairperson David S. Gordon, the Committee proclaimed November 14 to 20, 2004, as the 83rd annual observance of American Education Week. Chairperson Gordon read aloud the Proclamation, and presented it to the Teachers' Association of Newport President Tia Scigulinsky.

4.2 Certificates of Achievement:

4.2.1 School Categorization. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary C. Canole publicly announced that all of Newport Schools had been named either Moderately Performing and/or High Performing. She commended central administration, school building administration, and staff and faculty for their hard-earned accomplishments in focusing on teaching and learning. Each Member of the Newport School Committee then presented to each of the nine School Building Principals and their staff and faculty an educational award plaque in celebration of their school categorization results as either a high or moderately performing school. Coggeshall School received the award as a High Performing School, and all other schools received the award as a Moderately Performing School. Upon receipt of the awards, each Principal gave congratulatory remarks about their individual school. [Mr. Gordon presented the award to Thompson Middle School; Mr. Leary presented the award to Carey School; Mr.

Carlin presented the award to Sheffield School; Dr. Barry presented the award to Sullivan School; Mr. DeAscentis presented the award to Coggeshall School; Mr. Phelan presented the award to Underwood School; Mrs. Gaines presented the award to Cranston-Calvert School; Dr. Hilton presented the award to the Newport Area Career and Technical Center; and Dr. Shoemaker presented the award to Rogers High School.] Chairperson David S. Gordon commended Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary C. Canole for her leadership role in bringing all of the district's schools to Moderately Performing and/or High Performing.

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA.

5.1 Approval of Minutes.

- Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, October 12, 2004. No amendments were made.**
- Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, October 12, 2004. No amendments were made.**
- Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, October 26, 2004. No amendments were made.**

5.2

to

5.5 Personnel Actions.

Resignations.

Requests for Resignations of: Frank Mondelli, Para Educator, Rogers High School; James W. Thomas, Freshman Baseball Coach, Rogers High School; Frank Newsome, Assistant Boys' Basketball Coach, Rogers High School; and Nicholas Kenney, Para Educator, Rogers High School.

Retirements. N/A.

Leaves of Absence. N/A.

Appointments.

Head Teacher, Sheffield School. Mr. Carlin requested that the Request for Appointment of the Head Teacher, Sheffield School, be acted upon individually.

Para Educator, Kindergarten, Underwood School. Request for Appointment of Nancy Coyne, Para Educator, Kindergarten, Underwood School.

5.6 Requests for Waiver of Rental Fees. There was one Request for

Waiver of Rental Fees.

5.7 Requests for Field Trips. There were no Requests for Field Trips.

5.8 Requests for Conferences/Workshops. There were no Requests for Conferences/Workshops.

5.9 Requests for Home Instruction. There were no Requests for Home Instruction.

5.10 Bids. There were no Requests for Bids.

5.11 Fiscal Impact Analysis. There were no Requests for Fiscal Impact Analysis.

5.12 2004-2005 Tuition Rates.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, October 12, 2004, as presented; the Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, October 12, 2004, as presented; and the Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, October 26, 2004, as presented; Resignations of Frank Mondelli, Para Educator, Rogers High School, as presented; James W. Thomas, Freshman Baseball Coach, Rogers High School, as presented; Frank Newsome, Assistant Boys' Basketball Coach, Rogers High School, as presented; and Nicholas Kenney, Para Educator, Rogers High School, as presented;

Appointment of Nancy Coyne, Para Educator, Kindergarten, Underwood School, as presented; Request for Waiver of Rental Fees, as presented; and 2004-2005 Tuition Rates, as presented; and to act upon individually the Request for Appointment of Head Teacher, Sheffield School, as presented. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Appointment.

Head Teacher, Sheffield School. After subsequent review by Mr. Carlin, he indicated that discussion was not necessary. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Appointment of June McGreavy, Head Teacher, Sheffield School, as presented. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary C. Canole read aloud the approved Personnel Actions dated November 9, 2004, as presented.

6.0 DISCUSSION

6.1 Teaching and Learning:

6.1.1 School Categorization. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary C. Canole reviewed with the Committee the School Categorization results, stating that official notification would be released by the Rhode Island Department of Education on November 22, 2004.

6.2 School Audit Management Letter: Update. At the request of Chairperson David S. Gordon, discussion followed relative to expected release of the official School Audit Management Letter and its recommendations. He suggested that a subcommittee be established to address their recommendations. Mrs. Gaines reminded the Committee that a Finance Advisory Subcommittee was active last year. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary C. Canole informed the Committee that the School Department's administration and the City of Newport's administration have had ongoing, committed discussions on a collaborative basis.

6.3 Extended Benefits Trust Fund: Update. At the request of Chairperson David S. Gordon, Business Manager Bruce Alexander updated the Committee on the Extended Benefits Trust Fund. He reviewed the combining statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance for the year ended June 20, 2004, representing \$548,278.62. Chairperson Gordon stated that the Trust Fund should have been incorporated into the annual School Audit and urged the next Committee to be sure this reporting method is in place. Discussion followed relative to the definition, management, and investments of the Trust and Investment Commission and the need to receive quarterly and/or annual reports of the activity of the Trust Fund.

6.4 Subcommittee Reports:

6.4.1 Aquidneck Island School Committee Improvement Network (AISCIN). As stated by Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary C. Canole, there was no new business to report to the Committee at this time.

6.4.2 Newport School Committee/Newport City Council Liaison. As reported by Mr. Leary, the Subcommittee has not met.

6.4.3 Policy. As reported by Mrs. Gaines, the Committee agreed not to hold any future Policy Subcommittee Meetings until the appointment of the new Policy Chairperson.

6.4.4 Rhode Island Association of School Committees (RIASC). Mrs. Gaines reviewed with the Committee the work to date of the Rhode Island Association of School Committees. She indicated that an upcoming Orientation Training Session is being planned for current and newly elected School Committee Members on their Roles and Responsibilities for the first or second Saturday in December, 2004.

6.4.5 School Committee/State Legislators. As reported by Mr. Carlin, the Subcommittee has not met.

6.4.6 Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force. As reported by Mr. Leary, the Task Force met on October 18, 2004. He reviewed the Minutes of that meeting and awarded grants to the Task Force. He

stated that the next meeting was scheduled for November 15, 2004.

6.4.7 Thompson Building Project:

6.4.7.1 City/School Citizens' Technical Advisory Task Force.

6.4.7.2 Budget Advisory Subcommittee

Mr. DeAscentis informed the Committee that the last meeting of the Thompson Building Project: Task Force and Advisory Subcommittee was scheduled for December 1, 2004, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., at the Newport Area Career and Technical Center's Colonial Dining Room. He stated that this meeting would be a dinner of recognition and working meeting to bring closure to the Project.

7.0 ACTION

7.1 Budget: Fiscal Year 2005 and Fiscal Year 2006. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary C. Canole and Business Manager Bruce Alexander reviewed with the Committee the Communication Request for City Council Action proposed by the City's Director of Finance Laura Sitrin. They reviewed her recommendation, background and findings, and proposed Resolution of the Council, which addressed the following: "The City Council hereby resolves to formally request a

program audit of the Newport City Schools in order to determine the cost of federal and state mandated programs from the Rhode Island Auditor General. The City Council also resolves to formally request that the School Committee utilize \$850,000 of remaining funds raised to support the Thompson Middle School project that is substantially complete, in order to reduce the school department deficit as identified at June 30, 2004.” Discussion followed. Chairperson Gordon stated that when we accept money from a donor, we must use the funds for the purpose of which they were given and urged the Council not to accept the recommendation. Counsel Galvin stated he interpreted their request to deal with any excess funds generated from the bonds and agreed with Chairperson Gordon that donations must be honored as they were given and believes such donations are segregated from the bonds. Discussion followed. Business Manager Bruce Alexander defined the bonds and gift from McBean Trust. Mr. Carlin stated that bond monies should not be utilized for operating expenses. Dr. Barry clarified that the promise to the taxpayer by the Members of the Thompson Building Project Subcommittee was that any monies left over from the Project would be applied to the bond. Dr. Canole stated the remaining funds totaling \$850,000 in the Thompson Middle School Project was not an accurate figure. She stated that some punch list items and expected invoices have not yet been approved. Chairperson Gordon stated that both City and School Department finances must be addressed collaboratively. Dr. Canole stated that the School Department had protocol to utilize the bond monies before the McBean donation for the Townsend Building.

Dr. Canole requested that more investigation of the three funds needs to be determined. Mr. Carlin made a motion to inform the City of Newport that the School Committee rejects the recommendation of the City of Newport to utilize approximately \$850,000 of the funds raised to support the Thompson Building Project to reduce the known deficit as both gift money and bond money should not be utilized to meet operating expenses and that the promise to the taxpayer by the Members of the Thompson Building Project Subcommittee was that any monies left over from the Project would be applied to the bond. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0). Counsel Galvin suggested that a program audit would be part of the Caroulo Process and action for the program audit would not be necessary.

7.2 Community College of Rhode Island: Culinary Arts Partnership Agreement. Newport Area Career and Technical Center Director Joseph Martins and Community College of Rhode Island Director of Community Education Emilio Colantonio reviewed with the Committee the proposed Community College of Rhode Island: Culinary Arts Partnership Agreement. Discussion followed. Counsel Galvin stated his review and approval of the Agreement. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Partnership Agreement between the Newport Area Career and Technical Center: Culinary Arts Program and the Community College of Rhode Island: Culinary Program, as presented. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion. Discussion

followed. Mr. Carlin stated that he would abstain as he serves as a Professor at the Community College of Rhode Island. The motion carried (6-1-0). The Member voting to abstain was: David R. Carlin.

8.0 Expenditure and Revenue Reports, Enrollment Reports, and Damage Reports.

8.1 Expenditure and Revenue Reports. Business Manager Bruce Alexander provided the Committee with the Expenditure and Revenue Reports dated October 31, 2004.

8.2 Enrollment Reports. Assistant Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert B. Power provided the Committee with the Enrollment Reports as of October 29, 2004, as well as the Special Education Enrollment Report as of October 31, 2004.

8.3 Damage Reports. There were no Damage Reports presented this month.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Expenditure and Revenue Reports, Enrollment Reports, and Damage Reports: N/A, as presented. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

9.0 SUGGESTED MEETING DATES AND AGENDA ITEMS

Dr. Canole reviewed the meeting dates and suggested agenda topics, as noted below:

**9.1 December 1, 2004, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.: Newport School Committee
September 1, 2004, 7 a.m. (Cancelled) Thompson Building Project
City/School Citizens' Technical
Advisory Task Force and
Budget Advisory Subcommittee**

Topic:

Monthly Meeting

Location:

**Newport Area Career and Technical Center
Colonial Dining Room**

**9.2 7:00 p.m., November 16, 2004: Newport School Committee
Special Meeting**

Topic:

- **Transition Conversations**

Location:

Triplett School:

ESL Conference Room, First Floor

9.3 6:00 p.m., December 7, 2004: Newport School Committee

6:00 p.m., December 15, 2004: Special Meetings

Topic:

- **Orientation Workshop**

Location:

Newport Area Career and Technical Center

Colonial Dining Room

9.4 7:00 p.m., December 14, 2004: Newport School Committee

Regular Meeting

Location:

Thompson Middle School:

Beatrice Berman Bazarsky

Performing Arts Center and Cafeteria

10.0 Executive Session.

At 8:32 p.m., Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to go into Executive Session under jurisdiction of Rhode Island State Law, Chapter 46, 42-46-5 – Exceptions (a)(1) Personal Matters, and the person or persons affected have been notified in advance in writing and advised that they may request that the discussion be held in an open session; (a)(2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation; and (a)(9) any hearings on,

or discussion of, a grievance filed pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

OPEN SESSION

At 9:03 p.m., the meeting was called in Open Session.

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Adjournment. At 9:05 p.m., Mrs. Gaines made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

David S. Gordon	Mary C. Canole, Ed.D.
Chairperson	Clerk